

REMARKS

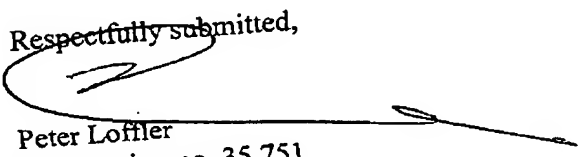
In regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended the claims in a manner that is believed to overcome this basis of rejection and respectfully requests that this basis of rejection be withdrawn. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to remove the antecedent basis problem. Claim 7 has been amended to depend on claim 1. Additionally, new claims 13-23 have been added, wherein base claim 13 includes the limitations of original claim 1 and original claim 7, which Applicant believes is new and non-obvious in light of Minotti, either alone or in combination with either Arnold or Hanes et al., or in further combination with Knopp et al.; or Diaz or Nash.

In regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minotti in view of either Arnold or Hanes et al., the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minotti in view of either Arnold or Hanes et al., in further view of either Knopp et al., or Diaz, the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minotti in view of either Arnold or Hanes et al., in further view of Nash and the objection of claim 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowed claim 6 and intervening claim 5.

Accordingly, Applicant's invention is new and novel with respect to the prior art.

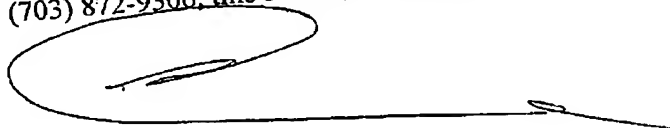
In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, therefore an early notice to this effect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing was faxed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Art Unit 3634, fax number (703) 872-9306, this 3rd day of January, 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line.

Peter Loffler

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